

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **470-2020**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Dan Gelber and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Raul Aguila, City Manager PJA

DATE: December 22, 2020

SUBJECT: *Miami Beach Open House* Announces Participating Artists & Nonprofit Cultural Organizations

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide the Mayor and Commission with information regarding *Miami Beach Open House* (the “*MB Open House*”) a public/private program for the selection and placement of artists and non-profit cultural organizations (the “Artists”). The goal of *MB Open House* is to entice artists to Miami Beach and unite residents and businesses through art. For years, Miami Beach has been a source of inspiration for artists but the lack of affordable studio spaces has caused many artists to leave Miami Beach. *MB Open House* will address the artistic need for space by activating empty storefronts in Miami Beach commercial districts while attracting, retaining, and supporting the revitalization of our artistic community. *MB Open House* is funded by a \$200,000 FY20/21 budget appropriation by the Mayor and City Commission.

Scheduled in conjunction with the relaunch of *Culture Crawl* in late January 2021, *MB Open House* selected artists to exhibit their works or create artistic/cultural activations in commercial corridors of the City, within privately-owned properties participating in the program. The activated storefronts will house the artists and their work for at least thirty (30) days, including the scheduled *Culture Crawl* events (the third Thursday of every month). The program encourages property owners to bring innovative cultural business to Miami Beach and create a place for cultural tourism. Additional property owners are sought to participate and activate their vacant spaces.

Artists and non-profit cultural organizations were asked to submit no less than ten (10) images/videos of previously realized work, a project statement detailing the initial approach to the project, an artist statement, and a curriculum vitae. Additionally, non-profit cultural organizations were asked to submit a project statement, a mission statement, and a copy of their 501(c)3 determination letter.

Participating property owners were encouraged to allow occupancy of no less than thirty (30) days. The exact term of leases will be negotiated between the property owner and selected artists/non-profit organizations. The City is not involved in lease negotiations.

After receiving 323 applications, a curatorial advisory committee comprised of three (3) members of the Miami Beach Art in Public Places Committee (AiPP) - Maria Elena Ortiz, Michael McManus, and Yolanda Sanchez - and two (2) representatives from the City of Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council (CAC) – Dawn McCall and Laurence Moser – (the “Open House Selection Committee”), selected 71 artists and nonprofit cultural

organizations to participate in *MB Open House*. The *MB Open House* Selection Committee evaluated the submissions based on the quality of previously completed projects, artistic accomplishments, cultural impact, project diversity, and the completeness of their application package.

Each selected artist will receive a stipend, of \$2,500, to realize their project and assist with incidentals such materials, moving expenses, insurances, parking, utilities, marketing and publicity. Only artists and organizations selected through the *MB Open House* Selection Committee and operating in a recognized Miami Beach storefront are eligible for the stipend. Selected artists are encouraged to sell their work, increase their network, collaborate with Miami Beach institutions and exhibit their work.

The *MB Open House* Selection Committee is pleased to announce the 71 participating artists:

Nubia Abaji	Chris Friday	Charo Oquet
Studio AMLgMATD	Kal Gajraj	Edison Peñafiel
Jason Aponte	Lucila Garcia de Onrubia	Devora Perez
Fama Art	Mauricio Giammattei	Lee Pivnik
Jenna Balfe	Jessica Gispert	Sandra Portal- Andreu
Cameron Basden	Sammy Gonzalez	Juan Requena
Hannah Baumgarten	Kristin Guerin	Timothy Reyes
Thomas Bils	Jacquelyn Guerrero	Shamelle Roberson
Liene Bosque	Alan Gutierrez	Dinorah de Jesús Rodriguez
Scott Brennan	Rachel Hovnanian	Ilisa Rosal
Belaxis Buil	Yi Chin Hsieh	George Sanchez- Calderon
Laura Casanas	Bas Fisher Invitational	Nathaniel Sandler
Domingo Castillo	Carla Jerez	Tom Scicluna
Beatriz Chachamovits	Eriberto Jimenez	Anita Sharma
BABA Collective	Jennifer Kronenberg	Barron Sherer
Penny Crane	Summer Jade Leavitt	Magnus Sodamin
Carolina Cueva	Natalie Lewis Schere	Misael Soto
Cara Despain	Justin Long	Erin Thurlow
Bernadette Despujols	Monica Lopez De Victoria	Eric Trope
Gianna DiBartolomeo	Laura Marsh	Alejandro Valencia
Giannina Dwin	Juan Matos	Joshua Veasey
Jenna Efrein	David McCauley	Michelle Weinberg
Christian Feneck	Colette Mello	Michael Williams
Colin Foord	Najja Moon	

For more information, please contact Lissette Garcia Arrogante at LissetteArrogante@miamibeachfl.gov or x26597 or Rickelle Williams at RickelleWilliams@miamibeachfl.gov or x26186.

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